

THEATRE CONSPIRACY
presents



**SOME THINGS
YOU NEED TO KNOW
BEFORE THE WORLD**

ENDS

by Larry Larson and Levi Lee
directed by Tim Brown

Contemporary Arts Theatre
October 1993

Theatre Conspiracy
presents

**Some Things You Need To Know Before The
World Ends:
A Final Evening With The Illuminati**

by Levi Lee and Larry Larson
directed by Tim Brown

CAST

Reverend Eddie
Brother Lawrence
Ensemble

Gabriel Shanks
Brian Loevner
Michael Buie
Shari Lewis
Gail Okunski

CREW

Director
Production Stage Manager
Lighting Design
Lighting Technician
Sound Design
Sound Technician
Set Design
Costumes
Propmaster
House Manager

Tim Brown
Selin Strait
Adam Magazine
Anne Simons
Player Sound
Melanie Jeliffe
Tim Goecke
Kimber Norquest
Phillip Galbreath
David Ortmann

SETTING

A church, somewhere

TIME

The present

THE SHE-BITCH IS ALMOST HERE!

Coming in December--the *regional theatre premiere* of

THEODORA SHE-BITCH OF BYZANTIUM!

by Charles Busch

Washington's favorite comic playwright, Charles Busch (*Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, *Psycho Beach Party*, *Red Scare On Sunset*), receives the regional premiere of his wildest work yet--here at the Conspiracy! This time, the gender-bending Busch goes after Theodora, the acid-tongued Queen made famous by actress Sarah Bernhardt in the 1920's. In the midst of political turmoil and hilarious assassination plots, can Theodora save both the kingdom and her young gladiator paramour? If she can avoid the Love Potion #9 running amok through the Empire! With sexy slaves, (somewhat) demure damsels, and Fatamorgana the Gypsy Woman, classical mythology will never be the same!

December 9th-January 2nd, 1994

District of Columbia Arts Center (DCAC)/2438 18th St NW

The **OPERATION** : *Nitecap* New Play Series

ELLE

a world premiere by Shirlene Holmes

1950's Paris. A young, frantic American woman arrives at the small apartment of the "black sheep" boyfriend who left her five years before. But behind the apartment door is not the man she still loves, but instead a beautiful Parisian showgirl, a magnetic, elegant mystery woman. As they wait for the boyfriend to return, the uneasy friendship the two women create is both explosive and touching, centering on the dark secret which both separates and unites them. Told to the music of Josephine Baker and written by the author of the award-winning *Ain't I A Woman!*, is a moving study of gender roles, love, and heartbreak not to be missed!

directed by Damion Clark (star of *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*)
starring Mattie Lolavar and Stephanie Marra

**OCTOBER 19, 20, 26, 27th Here at Contemporary
Arts**

Wine and cheese reception/after play discussion session
ONLY \$5!!!!!! A must for any theatregoer!!!!!!

GAIL LYNN OKUNSKI (Ensemble) is a founding member and Artistic Associate of Theatre Conspiracy. A pediatric nurse by profession, she first performed a while back in *What I Did Last Summer* at Little Theatre of Alexandria, then moved on to such things as the Northern Virginia One Act Festival, with the role of Millie in *The Slope*, and other productions around the area. Recently, Gail worked 'behind the scenes' on the Conspiracy's production of *Reverse Psychology*. In addition to her roles in ...*Illuminati!*, she is currently producer of Theatre Conspiracy's Operation Nitecap series. Gail would like to thank her family up in Allentown and her second family (the staff of Alexandria Pediatrics) for all of their love and understanding. Special thanks and warm fuzzies to Tim, Gabriel, Brian, Melissa, Damion, and Honey.

GABRIEL SHANKS (Reverend Eddie) is one of the Artistic Directors of Theatre Conspiracy. Although only intermittently an actor (he's a playwright in real life), he has been seen in roles as varied as George Tesman in *Hedda Gabler*, Dame Graciela Fontaine in *Saga!*, and Rick The Sexist Pig in *Stud*. The winner of the 1987 SETC Best Actor Award, Gabriel's solo performance piece, *Musings of an Art Fairy*, has been performed in Atlanta and Chicago, and will tour nationally in the summer of '94. Here in D.C., he is currently directing *Through Reasons Of Insanity* at Tavern Stage, and is hard at work directing the Conspiracy's next production, *Theodora, She-Bitch of Byzantium!* He wants everyone to know he is missing the Atlanta Braves playoffs for this play (commitment, indeed). He would like to thank 'The Player' for creating Round Two (bang!) of our dream, Damion for everything, Gail for the very sad (but wonderful) cup of coffee, and Dennis, for loving him in spite of this Crazy Red Thing called the Conspiracy.

ANNE SIMONS (Lighting Technician) is a graduate of the Florida State University School of Theatre. Since her move to Washington she has worked with Georgetown Workshop Theatre as an actor and Assistant Director, as well as directing in the 13th Annual Source Washington Theatre Festival. Anne was last seen in Theatre Conspiracy's production of *Reverse Psychology*.

SELIN STRAIT (Production Stage Manager) "And Selin said let there be light, and there was, and it was good"...or, at least she shed light on the ...*Illuminati!* Anyway, she has been involved in theatre for as long as she can remember, acting, costuming, etc., etc., etc. She's currently the resident Production Manager of CATCO and is directing *SubVersas*, a comedy in one-act she wrote.

Special Thanks

The University of the District of Columbia, Shirlene Holmes,
The Bavarian Illuminati, Adam Weishaupt, Damion Clark, Lisa
Miller, Tony Kurant, Patricia Raun, Paul Donnelly Jr., Jerry
Manning, Patty Fitzgerald, Caleen Sinette Jennings, Grace
Church, and B. Loevner (for work above and beyond the
call of duty)

THEATRE CONSPIRACY STAFF

Artistic Director

Tim Brown

Business Manager
Artistic Associates

Gabriel Shanks

Kat Ratoff

Brian Loevner

Gail Okunski

Media Director

Melissa Wajnert

Advertising Director

Damion Clark

Volunteer Coordinator

David Ortmann

Subscription Manager

Anne Simons

THEATRE CONSPIRACY FOUNDING BENEFACTORS

Mr. Kenneth Brown

Mr. Harvey Coen and Ms. Mattie Lolavar

Mr. and Mrs. John and Pam Ferinde

Ms. Terri Ferinde

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Laurie Flynn

Ms. Kerrie Flynn

Mrs. Catheryne M. Grogan

Mr. Steve Harmon

Ms. Gail Okunski

BIOGRAPHIES

TIM BROWN (Director), Co-Founding Artistic Director (how pompous) of the Theatre Conspiracy, proudly presents his local full-length directing debut with ...*Illuminati!* Tim has directed other projects for both Source Theatre Company and Georgetown Workshop Theatre, and has worked as an Assistant Director for Mainstage projects at Milwaukee Repertory Company. His credits include work with Jeff Steitzer of A Contemporary Theatre in Seattle on *Inherit The Wind* and with Maria Irene Fornes on *Mud*. Local acting credits include the Best Actor Award for Mark in *The Slope* for the Northern Virginia Theatre Association One-Act Festival. Tim is very tired, but extremely proud of this new theatrical venture, and he thanks his mother and father for their continual faith.

MICHAEL BUIE (Ensemble) is thrilled to be working with Theatre Conspiracy on ...*Illuminati!* Michael just recently moved back to the U.S. from London, where he played Grizabella in the London production of *Cats*. But seriously folks...he would like to thank the Conspiracy gang for giving him his first opportunity in almost two years to perform...legally. He was previously seen in the leads of productions of *Equus*, *Godspell*, and *Adam and the Experts* at Atlanta's OutProud Theater, and was a member of the company of the world premiere of *Comrades and Lovers*.. A special thanks goes out to Michael's spouse Phillip for being the coolest margarita maker in the world!

TIM GOECKE (Set Designer) has been working in the Baltimore-Washington area in theatre, television, and event/exhibit design for the past several years. His credits include the U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Finals, various projects for the Fox network in Baltimore, and several independent film productions. He has designed at Source Theatre, Horizons Theatre, and American Playwrights' in Washington, as well as numerous projects at P.S. 122 in New York.

MELANIE JELIFFE (Sound Technician) was born in Springfield, Illinois where she was a member of the Springfield Ballet Company for thirteen years, as well as the Muni Opera and Municipal Theatre. She attended the University of Mississippi on a Theatre Merit Scholarship. Her credits include *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Gypsy*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, *A Chorus Line*, *Carmen*, and *City Lights*. She recently stage managed *Sunset Diabolical* at the Source Theatre Festival and our first production, *Reverse Psychology*.

SHARI LINDSAY LEWIS (Ensemble) has recently come to the D.C. area after spending two years abroad teaching acting in Texas (which is not the same thing as being a broad from Texas). She spends her spare time defending womens' clinics from terrorists and was recently seen as the devil in *The Devil and Miss Jones* at the New Works Theatre One Act Play Festival in Arlington and as an Ensemble member of the Classic Theatre Company in Dallas. She also thinks that the whole concept behind Theatre Conspiracy is pretty damn groovy.

BRIAN LOEVNER (Brother Lawrence) is an artistic associate of Theatre Conspiracy. He has been seen most recently in the 13th Annual Source Theatre Festival as Lt. Rollings in *Sunset Diabolical*. His most recent assignment was Stage Manager of Conspiracy's first production, *Reverse Psychology*. He would like to thank his family, for without their support, none of this would be possible. Big, Wet, Sloppy Thank-You's also go to Amy, Gabriel, Tim, Gail, Emmy, Patty, and all the Blacksburg Crew. He wishes for all of the world and other people of import to understand the importance of SOUND! Thank you and good night.

ADAM MAGAZINE (Lighting Designer) most recently designed lights for Festival Theatre of Bethesda's inaugural cabaret. He is currently technical director and lighting designer for Theatre J's upcoming Marx Brothers show *Whatever It Is I'm Against It*. Adam has designed lighting and sound at the University of Virginia and the Williamstown Theatre Festival, where he worked with Joanne Woodward and John Rubenstein, among others.

KIMBER NORQUEST (Costumer), aka She-Wench the Costumer, hails from the culturally deprived state of Delaware. After doing 3 1/2 years of purgatory at Oral Roberts University, she emerged with the prized sheepskin and a bachelor's in Business Management. Her saving grace was that she spent so much time in the university theatre, a legend was born. (Actually, incoming freshmen mistook her for a die-hard theatre major instead of some poor demented costumer.) This is She-Wench's first production back here on the East Coast, much less in the D.C. area, where she hopes to do more with her tape measure between science-fiction conventions. Special thanks to the cast for raiding their closets, the green room, APO, Jon, Chris, Brian, Julie for being a great roomie, Marc--and just what does a girl have to do to get you to come down for dinner? Costume a show? Hugs and kisses my family--for all the love and support, and the new sewing machine.



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...Illuminati!

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The Critics Are Raving!

"A Real Find...Wit, Subtlety and Humor"
-Phyllis Richman, Washington Post Magazine

AND THAT JUST DESCRIBES OUR MENU!

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Cocktail Or Perhaps
An After Theatre Nosh
In Our Dining Room...
*The Choice Is Yours
The Pleasure Is Ours!*

PRESENT YOUR
TICKET STUB
AND RECEIVE A
COMPLIMENTARY
RAIL DRINK OR
DOMESTIC DRAFT BEER

TRUMPETS

RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

Dinner Is Served in the Dining Room 5:30pm - 11:00pm
Lighter Fare Is Available from 11:00pm - 12:00am Friday & Saturday

HAPPY HOUR: MONDAY-FRIDAY 5-8PM

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RESPONSIF READING

(plees speak up loud & proud)

THE MINISTER SPEAKS

CONGREGATION RESPONDS: It is meet & right to do so.

THE MINISTER SPEAKS

CONGREGATION RESPONDS: We lift them up.

THE MINISTER SPEAKS

CONGREGATION RESPONDS: For we are weary & hungry.

THE MINISTER SPEAKS

CONGREGATION RESPONDS: For we are thirsty.

THE MINISTER SPEAKS

CONGREGATION RESPONDS: It is about time.

THE MINISTER SPEAKS

CONGREGATION RESPONDS: That will soothe us.

THE MINISTER SPEAKS

CONGREGATION RESPONDS: Many of us have need of them.

THE MINISTER SPEAKS

CONGREGATION RESPONDS: We will be here.



Theatre Conspiracy

admit one

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A Final Evening With The Illuminati**